



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/021,236 | 10/30/2001 | Ian J. Barclay | 47097-01034 | 8861 |

28763 7590 02/07/2006

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP
1700 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

| |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

BRITTAIN, JAMES R

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3677

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/021,236

Applicant(s)

BARCLAY ET AL.

Examiner

James R. Brittain

Art Unit

3677

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 20 January 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 4 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☒ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

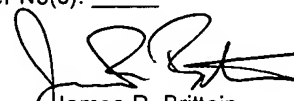
4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☒ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) 13, 17-23, 60, 62, 63, 65, 67, 133, 134, 140, 141, 144-150, 155-157, 159, 160, 164 and 165 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☒ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: 133 and 134.
Claim(s) objected to: 16 and 66.
Claim(s) rejected: 9-11, 13-15, 17-30, 35-52, 54-65, 67-69, 122 and 123.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 117-121, 131 and 132.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☐ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.


James R. Brittain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3677

Continuation of 3. NOTE: Numerous terms now lack clear antecedent basis as follows: "at least one laser" (claim 24, lines 2, 3; claim 151, lines 1, 2) must refer to one -- of said lasers-- in the first occurrence and have the proper terminology in the second occurrence, since the lasers performing the function are defined in claims 13 and 133; "said outer surface" (claim 61, line 2) lacks clear antecedent basis since amended claim 60 now defines two outer surfaces; "fasteners" (claim 64, lines 1, 3, 4; claim 68, line 2; claim 69, line 2; claim 142, line 1; claim 158, lines 1, 2, 3; claim 161, line 2; claim 162, line 2; claim 166, line 1) and the similar limitation "at least one said fastener" (claim 142, lines 2-3; claim 166, lines 2-3) lacks clear antecedent basis because the antecedent term in claims 60 and 134 is singular; "said drum" (claim 68, line 3; claim 161, line 2) and "said rotatable drum" (claim 139, lines 1-2) lack clear antecedent basis since claims 60 and 134 define two drums; "after cutting" (claim 135, line 2; claim 136, line 2; claim 143, lines 1-2; claim 152, line 2; claim 153, line 2; claim 168, lines 1-2) and the similar limitation "after fusing" (claim 139, line 2; claim 163, line 2) lack clear antecedent basis because it is unclear what "cutting" or "fusing" is being referred to and the disclosure indicates that it is the cutting or fusing already having antecedent in the prior claims thereby requiring these claims to utilize the appropriate definite article and any further modifiers necessary so as to identified what cutting or fusing is being referred to; and "said web" (claim 138, line 2; claim 167, line 2) lacks clear antecedent basis because claims 60 and 134 define two webs.